

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05 MCT-01 USSS-00 FBIE-00 /075 W

-----012704 201503Z /44

R 201050Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0086

INFO AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, BC, RH

SUBJECT: "SELOUS SCOUT" SENTENCED IN BOTSWANA

REF: GABORONE 938

1. JUNE 17 BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS REPORTED THAT TWO DAYS EARLIER ONE AMON NYATHI, PURPORTEDLY THE FIRST RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES' "SELOUS SCOUT" TO BE TRIED IN BOTSWANA, WAS SENTENCED TO FOUR YEARS IN JAIL FOR KIDNAPPING.

2. NYATHI WAS CHARGED WITH PARTICIPATING IN THE KIDNAPPING AND ABDUCTION TO RHODESIA OF FOUR BATSWANA, ON THREE DIFFERENT OCCASIONS IN LATE 1976 AND EARLY THIS YEAR. THE ACCUSED HAD PRESENTED HIMSELF AS A REFUGEE AT SELEBI-PIKWE, BUT WAS IDENTIFIED BY THREE OF THE RETURNED ABDUCTEES (THE FOURTH IS STILL IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RHODESIA) AS HAVING TAKEN PART IN THEIR KIDNAPPING. NYATHI REPORTEDLY EXECUTED A HANDWRITTEN CONFESSION STATEMENT IN WHICH HE ACKNOWLEDGED MEMBERSHIP IN THE SELOUS SCOUTS AND HIS PART IN THE KIDNAPPINGS.

3. COMMENT:

A. THE KIDNAPPINGS OF THE FOUR BATSWANA, THE SUBSEQUENT TRIAL AND RELEASE OF THREE (THE JUDGE CLAIMED HE HAS NO JURISDICTION TO TRY BATSWANA CITIZENS FORCIBLY ABDUCTED TO RHODESIA), AND THEIR RETURN TO BOTSWANA HAVE BEEN FULLY REPORTED IN GABORONE 938 AND PREVIOUS.

B. THERE REMAINS SOME DOUBT IN OUR MINDS WHETHER NYATHI WAS A FULL-FLEDGED MEMBER OF THE SUPPOSEDLY ELITE "SELOUS SCOUTS" ORGANIZATION. WE SUSPECT RATHER THAT HE WAS EMPLOYED TO HELP OUT IN SPECIFIC OPERATIONS BY THE SELOUS SCOUTS AGAINST BOTSWANA CITIZENS, BUT WAS PROBABLY NOT A FULL-TIME MEMBER OF THAT ORGANIZATION. END COMMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, COURT DECISIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GABORO01360
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
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Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: \"SELOUS SCOUT\" SENTENCED IN BOTSWANA
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, BC, RH, (NYATHI, AMON)
To: STATE
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